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The Entrepreneurial Mindset

The entrepreneurial mindset is critical to the success of my generation for a wide variety of reasons. It is a mindset that could be unlocked by many more young people, but it is hidden from most growing up. It is a mindset that could populate the world with world changers and innovators, but schools do not teach much about it. Raising up a generation of entrepreneurial minded individuals would be an exceedingly essential asset in many ways: good for society, good for the economy, and good for the overall well being of people. I ask myself, already knowing the answers, why hasn't entrepreneurship been directly taught in schools? How could we be raised up without learning actual essential lessons that apply to the real world? How is it the people graduate high school still not having direction and plans in life? Most important, why are students not taught how to live a life of purpose?

If someone were to ask me what the entrepreneurial mindset even is, I would tell them that it is a mindset that every person should possess, entrepreneur or not. I would say the money making aspect is only of 20 percent importance when it comes to the gains of this mindset, while the other eighty has to do with the actual personal development and empowerment it brings to a person. Russell Brand said something that stood out to me greatly, he said, "Society is collapsing, and people are starting to recognize that the reason they feel like their mentally ill is that they're living in a system that's not designed to suit the human spirit." I believe that the

entrepreneurial spirit is the true human spirit. Living a purpose driven life, with your own unique mission, and focusing on that one thing to impact the world. Accepting failures, and pushing on towards your end goal, being able to die knowing you left the impact you wanted. Using your unique personal strengths to pave your own path. Taking the money you made for yourself and continuously growing it, knowing the only limits you have are yourself. Entrepreneurial minded people do not allow themselves to be suppressed by fixed standards; they create, they innovate. They do not allow themselves to be enslaved by debt inducing systems, they are rule breakers and risk takers. They do not shut down in times of failure; failure can give them an adrenaline rush that they have been looking for. They go into situations looking to learn above all else, whether it is from other people or certain situations, good and bad. The entrepreneurial mindset is realistic and in sync with the nature of people. It grows people, starting with their mind and spirit. It allows humans to use their truly unique strengths and gifts. Their truly unique artistic and problem solving abilities. Truly entrepreneurial minded people view life beyond what they can see in front of them. They understand the power of giving and receiving, about putting out positivity and building themselves up as well as everyone around them. Their life is not only about them using themselves independently to give more to the world, but also understanding that in the end, they really are apart of the larger team. CEOs can influence other CEOs, realtors can influence other realtors, craft makers can influence other craft makers, mentors can influence other mentors, and the list goes on and on.

As a seventeen year old living in 2019, I can say, while people in my generation are growing more into entrepreneurship, not many are growing into the entrepreneurial mindset. Everything I said above will still sound like foreign to many. People do not like failure. Fear

drives people's decisions. Insecurities cause people to abandon their uniqueness for the norm. As Russell Brand said, people are not living according to their spirit. We all go from kindergarten to our senior year learning over twenty thousand lessons in our school, with none of them having to do with self discipline, self-awareness, personal development, risk taking, maximizing our strengths, avoiding debt, finding our mission, and living with purpose. Matter of fact, school prepares us to jump right into debt with no backup plans. We learn for years all about subjects that may mean little or nothing to us in our long but also short lives, just to go spend extensive amounts of money we may not have. We aren't taught how to interact with one another, how to build relationships, or what to do if currency changes, or taxes rise, or the economy fails, or how to handle the common mid-life crisis. We are prepared for a non-existent reality, not the reality that we will truly face when we graduate. The most useful lessons I have learned, I haven't learned until now at the age of seventeen years, when I became an associate of St. Charles County Center for Advanced Professional Studies, or CAPS. I learn all about global business and entrepreneurship, going on site visits, listening to guest speakers, meeting mentors and business owners, attending networking events, reading life changing books and learning the truths to economics and money making, taking risks and becoming self-aware, things I have never learned in my last sixteen years of living. Taking the Cliftons Strengthsfinder Assessment alone was a life changing thing, I can say that the other CAPS associates and I are learning lessons that will get us very far and life, living according to our nature. Being fulfilled and purpose driven. Facing the same difficulties in life as any other human beings, but handling them differently, both physically and mentally. Financially and personally securing ourselves while others may live in fear and discontentedness. But that is the thing; we do not want anyone in our generation to live

in fear or displeasure. Another duty of people with the entrepreneurial mindset, is to help those around them develop the entrepreneurial mindset. To lift others up and use our gifts, strengths, talents and abilities to help other people unlock their gifts, strengths, talents and abilities. To show people that the sky's the limit and that there is an entirely different side of life outside of the system we are raised in. We can still express our freedoms and liberties that were long fought for, just so we could have a life of happiness where we can create our own story.

Two common sentences we hear when networking with adults is “I wish programs like this had existed when I was your age.” or “Twenty years ago, I didn’t know entrepreneurship existed.” My response to that is now, both of those things exist, and our job isn’t just to be money makers and innovators, but also leaders and influencers. To share the knowledge we obtain with the students around us, whether they aspire to be an entrepreneur or not. This is only the beginning of the entrepreneur generation, but again, there is a difference between being an entrepreneur and having an entrepreneurial mindset. I know that I will continue to share the things I learn with those around me, because I believe that for every new entrepreneurial minded person that makes their impact, my generation, as well as all of America grows a bit stronger.